Amendments to the Claims

1-8. (canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An HIV-2 packaging vector ~~of claim 7~~ comprising a 5' splice donor site (SD) and an upstream and a downstream packaging signal sequence, wherein both the upstream and downstream packaging signal sequences are functionally deleted to reduce packaging of progeny viral RNA by more than 80%, but the SD is functionally intact, wherein functional deletion of the upstream and downstream packaging signal sequences comprises:

deletion of nucleotides 306-458 upstream of the SD, and deletion of nucleotides 486-538 downstream of the SD; or

deletion of nucleotides 306-370 upstream of the SD, and deletion of nucleotides 486-538 downstream of the SD; or

deletion of nucleotides 371-458 upstream of the SD, and deletion of nucleotides 486-538 downstream of the SD.

10. (canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) The packaging vector of claim [[7]]9, further comprising a 3' LTR, a 5' LTR, and a heterologous promotor CMV.

12. (Currently Amended) The packaging vector of claim [[8]] 9, further comprising a ~~wherein the 3'LTR is~~ functionally deleted 3'LTR.

13. (original) The packaging vector of claim 12, wherein the 3'LTR is replaced with a heterologous transcriptional termination sequence.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An HIV-2 packaging vector ~~of claim 7~~, comprising a 5' splice donor site (SD) and an upstream and a downstream packaging signal sequence, wherein both the upstream and downstream packaging signal sequences are functionally deleted to reduce packaging of progeny viral RNA by more than 80%, but the SD is functionally intact, wherein the upstream packaging signal corresponds to nucleotides downstream from nucleotide 300 and upstream from the SD, and the downstream packaging signal corresponds to nucleotides downstream from the SD and upstream from nucleotide 539.

15. (Currently Amended) The packaging vector of claim [[7]]9, wherein the functional deletions in the packaging vector decreases syncytia induction relative to an HIV-2 vector having functional upstream and downstream packaging signal sequences.

16. - 20. (canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) An isolated cell that expresses or has been transfected with the packaging vector of claim [[7]]9.

22-42. (canceled)

43. (Currently Amended) An isolated cell that expresses or has been transfected with the packaging vector of claim [[17]]14.

44. (Currently Amended) The packaging vector of claim [[7]]9, wherein functional deletion of the upstream and downstream packaging signal sequences comprises deletion of nucleotides 306-458 upstream of the SD, and deletion of nucleotides 486-538 downstream of the SD.

45. (Currently Amended) The packaging vector of claim [[7]]9, wherein functional deletion of the upstream and downstream packaging signal sequences comprises deletion of nucleotides 306-370 upstream of the SD, and deletion of nucleotides 486-538 downstream of the SD.

46. (Currently Amended) The packaging vector of claim [[7]]9, whercin functional deletion of the upstream and downstream packaging signal sequences comprises deletion of nucleotides 371-458 upstream of the SD, and deletion of nucleotides 486-538 downstream of the SD.

47. (Canceled)

48. (Currently Amended) The HIV-2 packaging vector of claim [[7]]9, further comprising a functionally deleted envelope, wherein the function of the envelope is provided in trans by a second vector.

49. (Previously Presented) The HIV-2 packaging vector of claim 48, wherein the HIV-2 packaging vector comprises SEQ ID NO: 7, 21 or 22 and the second vector comprises SEQ ID NO: 9 or 23.

50. (Currently Amended) The HIV-2 packaging vector of claim [[7]]9, wherein both the upstream and downstream packaging signal sequences are functionally deleted to eliminate packaging of progeny viral RNA.

51. – 59. (Canceled)

60. (New) The packaging vector of claim 14, further comprising a 3' LTR, a 5' LTR, and a heterologous promotor CMV.

61. (New) The packaging vector of claim 14, further comprising a functionally deleted 3'LTR.

62. (New) The packaging vector of claim 61, wherein the 3'LTR is replaced with a heterologous transcriptional termination sequence.

63. (New) The packaging vector of claim 14, wherein the functional deletions in the packaging vector decreases syncytia induction relative to an HIV-2 vector having functional upstream and downstream packaging signal sequences.

64. (New) The HIV-2 packaging vector of claim 14, further comprising a functionally deleted envelope, wherein the function of the envelope is provided in trans by a second vector.

65. (New) The HIV-2 packaging vector of claim 14, wherein both the upstream and downstream packaging signal sequences are functionally deleted to eliminate packaging of progeny viral RNA.